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SCOUTS LINE UP OLYMPIC STARS FOR EUROPE



Ivan Zelic heading high against Marconi. Now he could be heading for Europe to join brother Ned in France.

HOT ON the heels of the signing of UTS Olympic youngster Nick Rizzo by English giants Liverpool is the news that another of their star youngsters could also be on his way to Europe.

"Yes, we have spoken to a French scout about Ivan Zelic," confirmed UTS general manager Steve Darby.

"With Ivan's brother Ned doing so well with Auxerre it is only natural that there should be further interest.

"Ned (also a former Olympic player) has had some great games for his new club Auxerre recently and

also played really well against Ajax.

"We're delighted for any of our young players if they can crack the big time in Europe."

But Liverpool have scotched the story reported in one section of the soccer press that Rizzo is being offered a £40,000 contract.

"That's laughable," said an official of the Merseyside giants.

"Nick is a talented young player but he will be offered only trainee terms - and that is a long way from that sort of money."

Steve Darby confirmed the Liverpool interest but

did not have any financial details.

"We know that they have offered him terms," he said.

"But just now we don't have any other details.

"It is normal for them to offer him terms first.

"He was a regular member of the Joeys last season so obviously has potential and we wish him all the best."

Should Liverpool complete the signing then Olympic would stand to cop a compensation fee in the region of \$100,000 - with Ivan Zelic being valued considerably higher.

Bruce Campbell

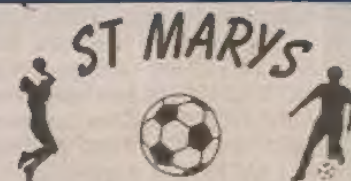
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ALL AGE COMPS ALL YEAR ROUND

Scheinflug names Young Soccerroos

AFTER holding a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport last month coach Les Scheinflug has named his squad of eighteen players to tour South America next month.

Scheinflug has also named four stand-by players.

"We always get good practice in South America," said Scheinflug.

"That is one reason why Australian teams always like to go there for preparations.

"This tour will help us to finalise our plans for next year's World Youth Cup in Malaysia."

Australia also plays in the Oceania qualifying tournament in Tahiti in January and are already rated as raging hot favourites to qualify from that section.

The Australian Youth team will play a total of eight matches on their twenty eight day tour of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

The squad will assemble in Sydney next week before departing for South America on September 23.

The squad has a lot of national



Tourist: Bill Damianos

league experience already and in trial games at the AIS showed that Scheinflug has the basis of a very competitive side.

The travelling squad is; Danny Milosevic, Brett Emerton, Vaughan Hunter, Con Blatsis, Josip Simunic, Ivan Zelic, Bill Damianos, Mark Robertson, Michael Garcia, Michael Curcija, Clayton Zane, Dragi Nasteviski, Matt Bell, Michael Pirone, Andy Vargas, Costa Salapasisdis, Daniel Allsopp, Peter Zios. (Stand-by - Tansel Baser, Levent Osman, Rafael Bove, Steve de Giovanniello).

Sports Commission cash shock

THE Australian Sports Commission has handed out a cash shock in its latest budget figures - and soccer is amongst several sports to face major cash cuts.

"We've had to make some hard decisions," admitted ASC chairman Mike Fitzpatrick.

"But we've decided to focus more on the limited resources that we have at our disposal and how we are going to use those."

Soccer funding is to be pruned by some \$80,000 although it is unlikely that the highly successful AIS soccer programme will be

affected.

Both rugby league and rugby union will suffer similar funding cuts as the ASC reduces its funding to major sports.

It is a clear pruning of sporting subsidies as the ASC plans its funding on the road to Sydney 2000.

But some sports will receive additional funding - with women's soccer amongst those whose budgets have been actually increased.

It is thought that the constant lobbying of former AWSA chief executive Peter Hugg, and the likelihood that

women's soccer will get the 2000 Olympics nod ahead of Futsal is the main reason for that change.

And the shock announcements from the ASC have come at the same time as doubt over whether Futsal will be included in the Olympic package grows.

"With the likelihood that women's soccer is there bar the shouting I can't really see Futsal being included," said one senior sports administrator in Canberra.

"I know that there has been a lot of huff and puff from certain

quarters but I will be very surprised if it is included.

"After all we have heard the same story for the last three years - and nothing has been cemented to date."

The IOC is expected to endorse women's football as a medal sport after the huge commercial success of the Atlanta exhibition where the final drew a crowd in excess of 70,000.

FIFA are also seen to be keen to increase the prominence of the women's game - while keeping the men's Olympic event in a lesser light.

Wade not dumped

SOCCER IN Oz is well known for its ability to create rumour and intrigue out of next to nothing - and the latest one to hit the scene is the absence of Socceroo skipper Paul Wade from the Simba Cup touring party.

However, the truth is less exciting than the story - with Wade on the sidelines recovering from an operation to remove floating bone from an ankle.

In his absence, Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson has named Alex Tobin as stand-in captain but is quick to

Aussie skipper absence is no mystery

point out that Wade still has a place in his plans.

"I don't have any plans to replace Paul Wade," said Thomson.

"At this stage he is still part of the international squad."

Last week the Soccerroos, minus their injured skipper, flew

out to take part in the four nation tournament which Thomson will use as a build-up to the crucial Intercontinental Cup clash against Tahiti in Canberra on November 1.

At least South Africa and Ghana will prove serious opposition.

Both African countries are ranked in FIFA's top twenty while the other competing nation, Kenya, is rated 96th.

Despite the dubiety of the FIFA system, the Soccerroos have a difficult task and Thomson is under no doubts.

"We're clearly the under-dogs for this tournament," he said.

"South Africa are very keen to turn the tables on us after we beat them in Australia a couple of years ago.

"But it will be a real good work out for us."

The Socceroo schedule consists of games against Ghana in Durban last Saturday and matches against South Africa today and against Kenya in Pretoria on Saturday.



Skipper Paul Wade in action at Bruce Stadium - he is out with injury, despite the rumours

The Socceroo squad is; Tobin, Mori, Ivanovic, Petkovic (Adelaide City), Cranney (Brisbane), Lozanovski, Tapai (Collingwood), Kalac (Leicester City), Foster (Marconi), Marth (Melbourne Knights), Polak, Trmboli, Spink (South Melbourne), Popoovic (Sydney United), Blagojevic, dwards, Trajanovski (UTS Olympic), Hooker (West Adelaide).

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Olympic marriage

AS THE perennial bridesmaid of Australian sport, soccer may be seen as content in its role as a lesser code to Aussie rules and rugby league.

Nevertheless, the reactionary outburst by the AFL's Ross Oakley in relation to Collingwood and Carlton's entry into the Ericsson Cup may indicate some concern about soccer's future role in Australian sport's pecking order.

Although details of Collingwood and Carlton's entry remain sketchy the potential exists for the amalgamation of clubs from different sporting codes to create 'super' clubs.

This may initially seem like a marriage of convenience, however, the future of professional sporting clubs may depend on providing year-round entertainment, giving maximum exposure to sponsors and maximising entertainment for the punter.

Recently *Inside Soccer* published details of the possible use by UTS Olympic of Canterbury rugby league club's home ground at Belmore.

It is now almost certain that Olympic will kick off the Ericsson Cup at Belmore.

Final details hinge on ensuring appropriate facilities for youth teams.

Confirmation of the move to Belmore is expected to be available shortly - with a public announcement by UTS Olympic expected this week.

The move will be welcomed by the majority of Olympic fans and is a coup for club heavies Gary Punch and Simon Konstandinidis who have achieved a real breakthrough in the Gypsy-like existence of the club.

It is hoped the move will be beneficial to both Olympic and the Canterbury Bulldogs, the ground's major tenant.

Plans to move to Belmore expected

However, negotiations have involved more than just ground sharing.

Talks have also taken place between UTS Olympic and at least two rugby league clubs on potential equity partnerships.

Although details regarding these negotiations are far from final, both Gary Punch and Simon Konstandinidis have confirmed intentions of seeking cash injections from major rugby league clubs.

Canterbury CEO Bob Hagan represents one of the rugby clubs involved.

The Canterbury top dog seems enthusiastic about Olympic's move to Belmore and future partnerships.

"Rugby league is a seasonal sport," he says, "and with soccer playing in the summer, there is a real opportunity for both codes to benefit from the use of Belmore Sports Ground."

"We both have the same colours and Belmore is also in the demographic heart of Sydney's Greek population, while many of Olympic's supporters are also fans of the Bulldogs."

With regard to future partnerships, Hagan confirmed that talks have been going on for some time and may involve the Bulldogs entering a variety of sports.

"The club has an interest in examining a variety of

options which could include three or four sports under the Bulldogs umbrella.

"This would involve a soccer team, a basketball team and possible a baseball team."

"I believe these sports can co-exist, as has been shown by some major overseas sports organisations."

Although still early days, sources within Olympic have revealed that talks have also included the Sydney City Roosters and one of their principal backers, businessman Nick Politis.

"Any deal between Olympic and a rugby league club in the future would allow us the advantage of learning from the Collingwood and Carlton experiment," said Konstandinidis.

Inside Soccer has not yet been able to speak to the ARL regarding possible cross-code partnerships, but it would seem that any concerns would be unlikely given the feeble arguments being presented by the AFL.

With the Olympic negotiations still delicate, the bride and groom are both a little shy to reveal too many of the family's secrets and no date has yet been set.

But to coin a Greek phrase; the logies (promises) have been made.

George Bramis

PAGE 3 IS
ALWAYS **Hot**
in *Inside Soccer*

ROWENA SEES STARS

FORMER MISS NUDE AUSTRALIA Rowena Leigh knows what it is like to be a star - and she reckons that a few more stars in the local game wouldn't go astray either. "There always used to be big name imports in the past," said the Canberra-based stunner. "Surely it would help brighten up the Ericsson Cup if more clubs signed overseas players?"

Maybe, but I still reckon that a half time appearance by Rowena would fill more than a few seats in any grandstand.



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SMITH FOR CITY

ADELAIDE CITY have signed former Sunderland midfielder Tony Smith. Smith, 24, has had limited opportunities in the Sunderland team, but is still considered to be talented enough to make a big impact in the Ericsson Cup.

He has played over 20 times in the English League for Sunderland over a six year period since first signing on with the northern club as a trainee.

Smith has also had loan spells at Hartlepool United and Scottish club, Kilmarnock.

Local press reports in Adelaide that Smith was a first team regular for five seasons are way off the mark, with his appearances generally confined to end of season matches.

Despite that, at nearly six foot, he is expected to do well for City coach John Nyskohus.

AT THE BACK POST

with Bruce Campbell



Going backwards in time

YOU CAN'T help but be impressed by the lessons of history at times – and as I was researching the historical page which appears elsewhere in this issue the poignancy of the whole muddle we are in struck me.

Unfortunately, it struck me as being very sad.

Forty years ago the ethnic clubs were totally jacked off at being kept down by the then establishment in New South Wales.

Hakoah (later Sydney City) had just won the 1956 NSWSA Second Division title but were denied promotion.

Prompted by the Eastern Suburbs club a breakaway league began in 1957 – the start of the NSW Soccer federation.

The rebels for their part promoted the game and soon the crowds were flooding back to soccer.

Another bone of contention amongst the clubs was that the old NSW Soccer Football Association didn't represent the clubs.

Instead, its committee was made up of autonomous directors who ran the game as they liked.

Sound familiar

OK, this time we haven't had a breakaway but there are a few people around who know just how close certain clubs were pushed in the latest ethnic logo debacle.

The fact of life, whether you, I, or anyone else likes it or not, is that the so-called ethnic clubs draw the biggest crowds in the game.

No amount of statistical double talk will alter that, no amount of magical wishful thinking will pack the terraces at other clubs.

The only thing, other than the sort of blind and passionate support which our ethnic clubs produce, which will draw back the fans is player power.

Brisbane Strikers have proven that. There you have the typical example of a multi-cultural / Anglo-Aussie centred club.

After a couple of years of

struggling at the bank and drawing crowds which weren't big enough to pack a telephone box all of a sudden the Strikers were in the big time.

Crowds rocketed and their media exposure was as never before.

The reason?

Frank Farina. It is as simple as that. Any club which is brave enough to sign up a superstar will draw the benefits at the turnstile.

Should the Strikers bring home another exile or two then they will no doubt get even bigger crowds.

But I can't help thinking that all of our recent troubles could have been avoided. I don't make any claim to be the smartest guy around, not even the best journalist. But I can see that the lessons of forty years ago just haven't been learnt.

Imagine what would have happened if Sydney United, Marconi and Melbourne Knights had walked?

Don't believe they wouldn't have been joined by another half dozen clubs either because the reality is that it is games between our top ethnic clubs which draw the crowds.

Does anyone really believe that UTS Olympic would draw the same crowd against, say, Blacktown City as they would against Marconi or Sydney United?

And is there anyone out there potty enough to believe that some tin pot local club in Melbourne would outdraw the Knights?

Thank heavens that common sense prevailed in the end, thank heavens that a deal of compromise was reached which allowed the forthcoming season to be played.

We don't want a breakaway league, we don't want to lose our top clubs – all we want is to play football.

Unfortunately, politics will always play its part – but for the sake of the game I just hope that the clubs sort out their power base so that this issue is never raised again.

The game is all about clubs and players, and, of course, fans – not individuals who want to go backwards in time.

On the air

LAST YEAR the Inside Soccer Organisation radio call team brought a string of shows to Sydney and Canberra listeners – and this season we'll be back, bigger and better.

ISO has signed an exclusive deal with SOCCER RADIO NATIONAL to call two games a weekend PLUS the magazine programme, *Boots'n'Balls* on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm until 9.00pm.

Boots'n'Balls will also feature a live phone-in segment (your chance to get back at me) as well as competitions and give-aways.

Regular *Inside Soccer* contributor Fred Legget (the other half of the 'Two Jimmies') is also featured regularly on Shocker Myles' 3UZ Sunday morning radio programme and I also have a new slot on Radio Hawkesbury (in west Sydney) on a Saturday between 8.00am and 8.30am.

That's a lot of listening – and hopefully we can help to popularise the game a bit more.

Sort out the tuggers

ONE OF the things I don't like about modern football is the tendency by defenders to pull other players' shirts.

Maybe it is preferable to some of the life threatening tackles which went by unchecked a few years ago – but it has no place in modern football.

I know I'm going to be accused of being a sissy or being 'negative' – that's a real beauty which comes out whenever you disagree with someone in Australian soccer.

I'd like to see more of the physical side coming back into the game – but would be delighted if our players gave the shirt tugging lark the flick.



West Adelaide's Con Kokkinoplitis shows that he is up on the modern side of football – with a timely shirt tug on Olympic defender Adam Ciantar.

COLLECTORS' ITEMS

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Another Inside Soccer big story **EXCLUSIVE**

"UNITED DIDN'T HAVE ANY OPTION"

"LET'S BE clear about one thing," says Sydney United president Ivan Simic (pictured right), "we had no choice."

Simic, in the first full interview since his club dramatically agreed to change its logo, has told of his sadness at the situation which has forced his club to break with more of its history.

"We took all sorts of advice," he said, "we took legal advice, we took different kinds of advice - but in the end we were left with no option."

"Nobody at this club wanted to change our logo."

"I didn't, the sponsors didn't, and neither did our members."

"But in the end we were left with only one alternative."

"It was either change the logo or be out of the Ericsson Cup."

Simic also spoke of the possibility of legal action against Soccer Australia for possible racial discrimination but revealed that this was never taken up.

"We were told by our legal advisers that this

would be very hard to win," he added.

And with the very real likelihood of almost crippling legal debts the club, which has embraced so much change already, put it to its members to accept the compromise on the logo issue offered by SocOz boss David Hill.

"I tried to explain to Soccer Australia that it wasn't just a matter of changing logos," Simic said.

"If we want to take this game to the people then we have to market it properly, we have to

promote it properly."

"We changed our name from Sydney Croatia about five seasons ago, and, maybe by coincidence, our crowds have dropped dramatically since."

"The logo represents our club history - and we are all very proud of that."

"And once you start changing logos and names then you upset your supporters."

In the last few seasons Sydney United has turned its stock around from a club on the slide to the most ambitious in



the land.

A three million dollar grandstand is just part of plans to make the Edensor Road ground the best in Australia.

"You have to give the crowd good facilities," says Simic, "and good football."

And with the one time very real possibility of losing major sponsor Boka Windows now behind him, Simic will be looking for his young Pumas to do the rest of the talking - where it counts, on the football field.

"We might still lose some of our club sponsorship," says the United boss.

"That is sad, but in the end we really had no choice about the change, it was either that or not play in the Ericsson Cup."

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TELEPHONE NUMBERS (home) (work)

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I authorise the coaches and staff of Club Marconi to act for me, according to their best judgement, in any emergency requiring medical attention. I further release Club Marconi and staff from any and all liability for injury and illness incurred at the coaching clinic.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE DATE

SPECIAL FEATURES

Ericsson Cup coach Manfred Schaefer,
Youth Officer Tom McCulloch,
Marconi Fairfield stars
Vlado Zoric, Luke Casserly and Dominic Longo,
PLUS GUEST APPEARANCES
FROM MANY OTHER PLAYERS



Warrior Waddell

GREEN GULLY star John Waddell looks likely to be added to Zoran Matic's Collingwood Warriors squad - if the problems with VSF transfers are sorted out.

Last season Waddell (pictured in action against West Adelaide) was one of the better players with Morwell Falcons and it looks likely that he will move across state to link up with the former Adelaide City guru.

Matic is starting to assemble a useful squad although the Ericsson Cup new guys have yet to announce any overseas signings.

Matt Green



Career Vacancies

Dunroon Publishing

is Australia's leading soccer media house, producing periodicals like *Inside Soccer* (for the Inside Soccer Organisation), club magazines for Marconi Fairfield, Sydney United, Morwell Falcons and South Melbourne as well as supplying editorial content for *Soccer Australia* and international match day magazines.

Additionally, last season Dunroon Publishing produced a series of three radio programmes; *Boots 'n' Balls* (a magazine programme), *Soccer Rap* (a national round-up) and *Match of the Day* (a live call programme).

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Rimmer Goes Home

FORMER English League player Neil Rimmer has jetted out of Australia - after just a week.

In that time he played in a couple of trial matches with Canberra Cosmos but the Ericsson Cup club failed to offer him terms.

"I've had a couple of

offers from England," said Rimmer who has played over 250 league matches.

"Mansfield Town have shown a fair bit of interest in me, too."

Rimmer was impressive in his trial matches but the Canberra club didn't offer him terms.

Instead they have

announced the signings of Melbourne Juventus player John Angelovski and sixteen-year old AIS midfielder, Vince Grella.

"Angelovski came on a strong recommendation," says Cosmos coach Mike Lyons.

"Grella also looks like a good player and he will do a good job for us."

Grella made his debut in the Cosmos side which went out of the Johnnie Walker Cup last Friday at Melbourne Knights.

Both players are in contention for starting places as Lyons winds up his pre-season campaign for the Ericsson Cup.

Former Canberra players Marko Perinovic and Jason

Dunne seem to be out of contention for places in Lyons squad and are unlikely to land contracts.

Both were key players last season but seem to be at odds with club management.

In the meantime Lyons, the former Everton star, has put together a squad which is brim full of youth.

"Grella is the sort of players who our supporters will like," he said.

"We've got a good squad this season."

And with over 500 season tickets also sold and much of the Cosmos well-publicised financial problems behind them Lyons is looking forward to a "competitive" season.

in the *NEXT ISSUE* of
inside
SOCCER

ON SALE
WEDNESDAY

2nd
OCTOBER

- * Ericsson Cup preview
- * Is there life in Oceania?
- * Waratah & Johnnie Walker Cups
- * Fred Leggett looks at British Football

AUSTRALIA'S TOP SELLING SOCCER PUBLICATION

Marconi 'signing' now second highest paid player in Oz

Longo set for mega bucks offer



"IT will be the best signing we have made for this season," commented a Marconi soccer official on the likelihood that Dominic Longo will put pen to paper this week to end weeks of speculation about the star defender's immediate future.

"Longo is a tremendous player and is also a brilliant sportsman in general. Everybody at the club is thrilled that he will be with us again this season."

It was the signing of Longo last year on loan from Belgian club Cercle Brugge which was the final piece in

the Premiership winning puzzle put together by coach Manfred Schaefer.

But Longo looked almost certain to head back to Europe with the Bosman ruling now making him a free agent.

However, Marconi are believed to have made Longo the second highest paid player in Australia with a package which will top the \$70,000 mark.

"I can't make any comment on that," said the Marconi official.

"Obviously financial dealings are between the player and the club and must remain

private."

However, *Inside Soccer's* sources reveal that the quoted figure is very accurate.

Currently Frank Farina is Australia's highest paid player with a salary package believed to be in the region of \$150,000 and while that is high by Australian standards it is peanuts compared to what Farina has earned in previous seasons in Europe.

But the figure on offer to Longo more than favourably compares to what is being offered in mid-table clubs in Europe.

Players in lower

division clubs in Britain are generally on wages between \$500 and \$700 per week, far from the astronomic sums being given to stars like Vialli, Shearer and Gascoigne.

The average Ericsson Cup player can earn somewhere between \$15,000 and \$25,000 although clubs like Marconi, South Melbourne and Adelaide City are traditionally the best payers in the league.

Visa players, considered too expensive for most clubs, earn a guaranteed \$600 per week - a clear indication as to the

average wage on offer.

Longo's decision to stay in Australia may well indicate that he sees a longer term future here.

And with the World Cup qualification games coming up next year he obviously sees an opportunity to cement a place in Eddie Thomson's Socceroo squad.

That would only put him in the world shop window and enable a second tilt at a European career - without having to go through the backdoor of second rate clubs.

Bruce Campbell

One on One JOE SPITERI

with Mike Komadina



THE FACT FILE

NAME: Joe Spiteri
CLUB: Melbourne Knights
PREVIOUS CLUB(s): Green Gully, Heidelberg, Albion, Parramatta Eagles
DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 6 May 1973, Australia
NICKNAME: 'Spitfire'

THE SPORT FILE

POSITION: Forward
WHO GAVE ME MY FIRST BIG BREAK: Rale Rasic at Parramatta
WHAT I REMEMBER FROM MY NSL DEBUT: Being nervous, but still having a good game
WHO HELPED ME IN MY EARLY DEVELOPMENT: My father
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My first hat-trick - against West Adelaide
THE MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: My next opponent
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing out on AIS selection due to age group change
MY WORST INJURY: Torn ligaments
WHAT I LIKE ABOUT ERICSSON CUP FOOTBALL: Scoring goals
MY BEST GOAL: For the Olyroos against Leeds United

PERSONALITY FILE

MY KIND OF MUSIC: Top 40 and dance hits
MY FAVOURITE AUSSIE SINGER: Jimmy Barnes
BEST LOCAL NIGHTSPOT: My girlfriend's house
FAVOURITE SHOWS/ACTORS: Faulty Towers, Rowan Atkinson
ANY GOOD MOVIES?: No time for movies
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoking
BEST PART OF AUSTRALIA: Gold Coast
MY BEST FRIENDS: My girlfriend and my family
WHAT I WOULD BE DOING NOW IF I WASN'T A SOCCER STAR: Searching for a career in business or computing.

Hampson baffled by SocOz

SocOz chairman David Hill has described the move by the AFL Commission to re-think their policy of barring clubs from active soccer participation as "a terrific gesture which is good for football."

Paddington obviously see the latest breathing space as a result of Hill's meeting with the AFL Commission and while it has likely had some impact the more realistic catalyst has been the threatened legal action by

AFL situation still poses questions

Collingwood.

In the meantime the AFL remains staunch on its position that its clubs will not be putting money into soccer, a stance which seems to clearly indicate that Collingwood's only interest in the round ball game is the

opening up of avenues of additional revenue.

With the addition of Carlton next season SocOz still has a lot of unresolved issues to answer, chiefly who will be the sixteenth club.

The danger of heat exhaustion with games

at both Collingwood and Perth kicking off in the afternoon also has been totally ignored by the game's governing body.

Meanwhile, former Essendon AFL general manager Roger Hampson has criticised SocOz, stating it has "a

strange way of doing business."

Hampson, who was engaged on a consultancy by the Melbourne Knights joined thousands of soccer supporters in his astonishment at the events of recent weeks.

Matt Green





Bruce Campbell's
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LEGENDS OF AUSTRALIAN SOCCER:

Duncan Cummings

He was Australia's teenage sensation

IN 1968 he was just one of many migrant kids, arriving from England in one of the big boom periods in Australia's post war development.

Duncan Cummings, then aged ten, did what was natural and played soccer.

Nothing unusual in that but within two years he was a sensation, scoring so many goals that he was labelled a goal freak.

Not surprisingly the striking prodigy was picked for the Victorian Under 12 team in 1970 - the same year he smashed in an incredible 103 goals.

At fifteen he made his senior debut for Melbourne against Footscray.

He had played all of his soccer with the club yet was still surprised by the advancement.

"I wasn't expecting a game," Cummings said later.

"But just before the kick off the coach told me I was on as centre

forward."

A new star was launched on the soccer stage in Victoria.

Cummings stayed with Melbourne until they were relegated in 1975 and he then transferred to South Melbourne for \$8,500.

But even his transfer was conspicuous and it

wasn't until just one hour before kick off that he was cleared to play.

Preston had come in with a rival \$10,000 bid and his club promptly changed their mind.

However, Duncan Cummings threatened

to walk out on soccer and switch codes to Aussie Rules.

The Richmond Tigers were waiting in the wings for the kicking sensation to make his mind up and swayed by the possible loss of \$8,000 Melbourne changed their mind and Cummings joined the

Blues.

The following year he made his full international debut against Hong Kong and set a record as the youngest player to pull on the green and gold, a record which was to last for 20 years until beaten by Harry Kewell against Colombia earlier this year.

Cummings had also played for the Socceroos a year earlier - but that game wasn't a full international.

The record books show that in all Duncan Cummings played only 90 NSL games - not an earth shattering record by any means.

But in a career dogged by injury he still managed 24 goals.

Blues.

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But in a career dogged by injury he still managed 24 goals.



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Considering that he came off the sub's bench 16 times in the NSL his scoring rate was pretty good.

Then at the age of 23 he packed the game in, maybe disillusioned, maybe with nothing more to prove.

"Duncy was a real

class player," remembers Bobby McLachlan, himself an icon in Victorian soccer.

"He made a huge impact when he was a kid, then he just seemed to pack it all in.

"I heard that he took up Aussie Rules - he was pretty good at that,

as well."

One of the legends of South Melbourne, Duncan Cummings is also one of the legends of Australian soccer - even if he is almost a forgotten hero in the game which forgets its past so quickly.

Bruce Campbell

Revolution diary

The events of 1956/57 which saw the establishment of the NSWFS.

- Dec 19 "It was a unanimous decision not to promote Hakoah. I have heard that several members of Hakoah club have threatened a breakaway but we are not worried about that taking place." (Bill Orr, Secretary NSWFA)
- Jan 5 25 representatives of 7 senior clubs and several junior clubs meet in the home of a Hakoah director. After a four hour meeting Leichhardt, Gladesville, Bankstown, Auburn, Prague, Sydney Austral and Canterbury form what will become the NSW Federation.
- Jan 9 Leichhardt reversed their decision and returned to the NSWFA - secretary Harry Miller resigns.
- Jan 10 Granville and North Shore also return to the establishment fold
- Jan 11 Joe Marston (captain of Australia and Leichhardt) announces he will not play again in the NSWFA ranks.
- Jan 17 Andy Burton named chairman of the breakaway group - now consisting of senior clubs Bankstown, Canterbury, Prague, Sydney Austral, Hakoah, APIA, Eastern Suburbs and Europa.
- Jan 18 Stars Dave McComish and Frank Hearn pledge support for NSWFA - reversing their earlier stand. Both play with Gladesville.
- Feb 1 Gladesville announce that they will pay a retainer in an attempt to keep their players - the first open player payment in NSW soccer history.
- Feb 13 At a meeting at the Ex Imperial, club in Hamilton Street the rebel clubs officially break away from the NSWFA. 5 first division clubs (Canterbury, Bankstown, Prague, Sydney Austral and Auburn) are joined by Hakoah, Eastern Suburbs, Concord, Lane Cove, APIA, St Peters, Villawood, Melita Eagles, Kadimah Progress, Europa, Camperdown, White Eagles and Lions.

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when visiting Sydney

HE IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLAYER IN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER HISTORY - BUT AFTER A NIGHTMARE START TO HIS ENGLISH CAREER THE SPIDER IS BACK

I'LL STILL MAKE IT TO THE TOP

WHEN HE went to England it was amid all of the fanfare which Australia's record transfer deserves.

He was Australia's first million dollar export, he was the best ever penalty saver this game has seen, he was a hero to thousands of young Sydney United supporters - he was, and still is, Zeljko Kalac - the goalkeeper they call Spider.

But Kalac's \$1.75 million dollar transfer to English club Leicester City went horribly wrong as a couple of playing errors in his debut match saw him tossed on the scrap heap.

After that his club manager, Mark McGhee, sensationally

walked out on the club in favour of a big money opportunity at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

But the promise of a follow-on move to Wolves didn't materialise for Kalac and nearly a year later he found himself back in Sydney, where it all started.

"What can I say," he said in this open and frank interview.

"Things just didn't work out and now I am looking to get on with the rest of my career."

Just now Kalac is sunning himself in South Africa with the Soccerroo party while club officials frantically try and sort out the mess which has already seen Wolverhampton smacked with a huge half million dollar fine for contract breaches regarding Kalac's proposed transfer.

Kalac blames lack of preparation as the main reason for his English failure.

"I was thrown in at the deep end," he says.

"I didn't really have much time to prepare and I didn't have any kind of pre-season with Leicester."

"All up it was just a bad year."

"Everybody knows what I was like in

Sydney but that doesn't make any difference - it is what you are like in England.

"That's all there is to it."

"I had to perform over there but I didn't really get the best of chances to perform."

Kalac found a couple of significant differences to the game in his one season stint with Leicester, including the

England.

"Mick Hickman was fantastic to work with but really at the end of the day the man who made all the decisions was the manager, Mark McGhee."

"I found him to be a funny kind of man, it is difficult to explain."

"He was good when I first arrived in England but when he moved on

"It was really a terrible year - I find it hard explaining it to myself - so I can't really explain it to anyone else."

weather and the pace of the English game.

"The wet weather plays a big factor in the game over there which is also a lot faster because the players are much fitter," he says.

"But really, I think the main difference is the fitness, and that comes because English players are professional."

Kalac had the chance of joining three English clubs but eventually chose Leicester City - and as it turned out chose the wrong club.

With Norwich City and Leeds United both on his trail he chose to link up with Leicester who also had former Sydney Olympic and Sydney United coach Mike Hickman on its staff.

"I thought it would be the best way to break into the English game," he admits of his move to Filbert Street.

"I thought I could use it as a stepping stone to find my feet."

"But with all the trouble I had getting a work permit it didn't really work out that way."

"When we moved up to the Premier League I thought that my luck had at last changed but again red tape stops me from playing in

to Wolves he left all the players he had brought in the thick of things.

"It was really a terrible year - I find it hard explaining it to myself so I can't really explain it to anyone else."

"McGhee had promised to take me over to Wolves but then Leicester didn't want to let me go."

"Finally, Wolves were scared off paying all the money and then me not meeting the work permit criteria so I ended up going back to Leicester."

"It was just one big disaster, a nightmare."

"I missed half of the season because of the work permit situation, then I had a dislocated thumb, I snapped a thigh muscle, I just picked up so many injuries."

But with Sydney United having signed up Peter Blazincic from West Adelaide the big fellow's career is still on hold.

He seems to be in the middle of it still - with the real possibility that he won't be released by Leicester to even play in Australia.

Kalac is hoping that while he is away with the Soccerroos that Sydney United can sort out the problem with



Leicester City to allow him to resume his career.

One thing is certain, he still has the ambition - and the talent - to get to the very top of the tree.

And he still has that burning ambition to do just that.

"After this traumatic year I'm in no rush to go back to Europe," adds Kalac.

"I just want to prove

to everybody that I am number one and with the World Cup just around the corner I want to push Bosnich for the Australian keeper's spot.

"That is up to the

national team coach, but I want to remind everybody that I am here - and I am pushing him for it."

Bruce Campbell
& Mike Komadina

The Forgotten

Mark Schwarzer was Australia's hero when his brilliance in goals for the Socceroos helped to eliminate Canada in the last World Cup. But now the penalty shoot-out king finds himself the forgotten man — hoping that Eddie Thomson will still remember him.

An Inside Soccer big name
exclusive by Fred Leggett

IN 1993 Mark Schwarzer became an instant Aussie hero when his saves in the penalty shoot out between the Socceroos and Canada at the Sydney Football Stadium earned the Aussies the right to face Argentina for the final berth in the 1994 World Cup.

Television news broadcasts replayed Mark's saves over and over again, and a big future was predicted for the then Marconi youngster.

Three years on, and although enjoying the life of a professional footballer in Germany, Schwarzer wonders if Australia has forgotten him, and sends the message that he'd love to play for Australia again.

Speaking from his home in Kaiserslautern, the affable young Sydney-sider said: "I would have to say that the Canada game was the highlight and the turning point of my career.

"I received a lot of publicity which was extended all over the world.

"That game basically gave me a big stepping stone to Europe and I had the good fortune of playing well in such a big game which probably also facilitated my transfer to Germany."

Schwarzer was subsequently transferred by Marconi to German first division club Dynamo Dresden and most thought that he would have no problem adjusting to the lifestyle as he came from a German speaking background.

However, this turned out not to be the case in his early days.

"During my first year in Dresden things were very difficult," he reflected.

"The people were a lot different to people in Australia.

"The locals were very withdrawn and although I am not shy it was very difficult to make friends as well as

fit in at my new club.

"Dresden has its own dialect and even for someone like me who could already speak some German, it was almost impossible for me to understand people.

"It would be fair to say that things didn't go that well at the start.

"The team started off very poorly and to add to that I just wasn't fitting in as well as I first thought I would, and I definitely felt homesick

"As the season continued, however, I started to feel a little better and also made a friend in the team who was also alone so we did most things together.

"Towards the end of the season it looked as if we were going to be relegated, but my lucky break came when our regular first team keeper, Stanislav Tschertschessow, was called up by Russia to play in some European Championship qualifiers and I was drafted in to the first

team.

"I found days to game that I against Frank

"I enjoyed this game and played

"The season finished off the licence the season meant player contract

"The Kaiser with a about negoti for DM

"I moved team to a finished Bunde year, the qualify UEFA

"This to my Dresden played "I've



ten Hero



aiserslautern since July 95 and although the last season was not the best for us and we were relegated, at least I ended up playing four games for the first team.

"The only little celebrating we had was winning the German cup and therefore qualifying for the Cup Winners Cup.

"Although I'm sitting on the bench for the first team and playing in the reserves I'm still doing everything I can to play well enough to be the number one keeper at the club, and hopefully in the not too

istant future that will happen.

"These days things are fine, especially since my girlfriend has moved over from Australia.

"Kaiserslautern is only a small town of about eighty thousand people and my grandmother and great grand mother live not too far away.

"Football over in Germany is certainly different to my time playing in Australia.

"The major difference, apart from the money, is that now I train six days a week and our average home

crowd is 35,000 people!

"Media coverage is phenomenal and if you go out at night and have a few beers everyone at the club knows about it the next day!

"Of course there is also a lot more politics surrounding the game which in turn translates to added pressure.

"It's not just a matter of concentrating on the game.

"There are so many more external factors with which to contend."

The genial giant is enjoying life in

Germany but may be tempted to move on at the end of this season when his current contract expires.

"I'd really like to find a club where I can play on a regular basis," he adds, "but this is not always easy.

"If an offer came in from a team in another country I would always listen to them.

"I wouldn't mind playing somewhere else because it would enable me to gain invaluable experience in terms of playing and living in another culture.

"At the moment my

girlfriend Paloma I are interested in going to England where she will be able to work, which is important to both of us, as she has studied at University for three years and would be able to put her qualifications to good use.

"As a young boy it was always a dream of mine to play in England or Germany, so we'll just wait and see what happens."

Mark keeps in touch with his family in Sydney through the internet.

"I've had a personal computer for about 6 months now," he says, "and it's very handy as my brother also has one in Australia so we can keep in touch.

"I also speak to my ex team mate at Marconi, Steve Corica who is playing at Wolverhampton, every couple of months and find out what he's up to."

And what about national coach Eddie Thomson, does he ever get in touch?

"I'm not sure that Eddie Thomson would even recognise me these days," adds Schwarzer.

"It's disappointing

that my lack of exposure seems to discourage a call up to at least a training camp.

"Of course I'd love to play for Australia again, who wouldn't?"

Mark Schwarzer may have a few more years of globetrotting left in him but he is adamant that he will return to Australia one day.

"Yes, I will definitely be returning to Australia to live one day.

"Maybe to play, if not maybe even to coach once my playing days are over."



Match of the Day



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SATURDAY 6.00–9.00pm		SUNDAY 6.30–9.30pm	
Oct 05/06	Ericsson Cup preview	Johnnie Walker Cup Final	
Oct 12/13	Gippsland v South Melbourne	Sydney United v Wollongong	
Oct 19/20	Marconi v Collingwood	UTS Olympic v Canberra	
Oct 26/27	Gippsland v Marconi Fairfield	Sydney United v Melbourne Knights	
Nov 02/03	Marconi Fairfield v Sydney United	UTS Olympic v Gippsland Falcons	
Nov 09/10	Gippsland v West Adelaide	Adelaide City v Marconi Fairfield	
Nov 16/17	Canberra Cosmos v Collingwood	UTS Olympic v Adelaide City	
Nov 23/24	Gippsland v Canberra Cosmos	Sydney United v Perth Glory	
Dec 30/01	Canberra v Sydney United	UTS Olympic v Wollongong City	
Dec 07/08	Brisbane Strikers v Perth	South Melbourne v UTS Olympic	
Dec 14/15	Gippsland v Sydney United	South Melbourne v Perth Glory	
Dec 21/22	Marconi Fairfield v UTS Olympic	West Adelaide v Marconi Fairfield	
Dec 28/29	Gippsland Falcons v Brisbane	Melbourne Knights v Canberra Cosmos	
Jan 04/05	Marconi Fairfield v Perth	Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers	
Jan 11/12	Gippsland v Wollongong	Australian International Series	
Jan 18/19	Australian International Series	Australian International Series	
Jan 25/26	Marconi v Canberra Cosmos	South Melbourne v Gippsland	
Feb 01/02	Gippsland v Melbourne Knights	Sydney United v South Melbourne	
Feb 08/09	Marconi v Gippsland Falcons	UTS Olympic v Collingwood Warriors	
Feb 15/16	Gippsland v UTS Olympic	Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield	
Feb 22/23	Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle	Adelaide City v UTS Olympic	
Mar 01/02	Gippsland Falcons v Perth	UTS Olympic v Brisbane Strikers	
Mar 08/09	Canberra v Gippsland	South Melbourne v Marconi	
Mar 15/16	Gippsland v Collingwood	UTS Olympic v South Melbourne	
Mar 22/23	Gippsland v Newcastle	Melbourne Knights v UTS Olympic	
Mar 29/30	Wollongong v Perth Glory	UTS Olympic v Marconi Fairfield	
Apr 05/06	Gippsland v Adelaide City	The Premiership Decider	
Apr 12/13	Live Studio Talk Back Show		
Apr 19/20			

Top Six Play Offs
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Special Grand Final phone-in show

NOTE: programme scheduling subject to changes

Match of the Day is broadcast through Canberra Triple SSS 103.9FM and re-transmitted through Sydney BFM 88.7 and other participating stations nationwide through ComRadSat, the Australian radio satellite network.. Individual enquiries should be made to the Inside Soccer Organisation (06 299 2232) or Radio Stations may enquire through Jim Beatson, at the CBAA 02 310 2999.

Soccer Marketing

with Cec Bucello

Cec Bucello is a former Marketing Manager of the Australian Soccer Federation. Soccer marketing is one of the most talked about, and mis-understood, subjects in the game. This is the first in a series of five columns on the subject. Cec Bucello is now a freelance marketing consultant and can be contacted on (02) 9686 7020.

PART 1: Television

ONE OF the most often repeated, yet not necessarily true, statements heard about Australian soccer concerns our apparent inability to correctly market the game.

"Soccer is not being marketed properly in Australia," people constantly say.

"Look at and what they have done.

"Why can't soccer do the same thing?"

But this is a far more complex subject than most people realise.

It's not until you place yourself in the position of the person that has to make the decision regarding the marketing of the sport that you come to understand why there are so many things to consider.

Obvious Solution

The most common and obvious solution offered by well meaning fans is that soccer should be advertised on commercial television.

There is absolutely no doubt that soccer needs, and can use, a great deal more exposure on commercial television.

In fact, there are very few sports that do not want or cannot use more exposure on commercial television - and soccer is obviously not alone.

However, to pay for that privilege through advertising is a vexed question.

Soccer is the only real national football code with large numbers playing the game throughout Australia.

State leagues are in existence at a semi-professional level in all States and Territories and the Ericsson Cup this season will include a Perth team making our top level domestic competition also truly national.

In view of this, what should we advertise on commercial television, and where and when?

Ericsson Only

Should we only advertise Ericsson Cup fixtures and hope that anyone responding will attend a match and become a convert?

How realistic is that? Should we advertise soccer itself?

What can you actually say or show in 30 seconds (the length of a normal television commercial) that will convince viewers that soccer is something that they should become involved with?

Greatest Hits

Even a montage of Australian soccer's greatest highlights, whilst both interesting and entertaining, is not likely to generate converts.

In 1994/95 the Australian Soccer Federation was pleased to develop a relationship with internationally renowned performer Peter Andre and made a modern, trendy, even cool, television commercial based on the theme 'Let's Get In On' - one of Peter Andre's popular recordings.

The commercial was used extensively on SBS as funds were not available to place it on commercial television.

However, as it was a generic soccer commercial not promoting any specific event, what good was it really doing?

Did anyone really see it - and did it have any effect other than image enhancement?

Was there any point in placing it on commercial television?

Simply The Best

Would, in fact, the Tina Turner Rugby League commercial have done any good on its own?

The main reason that most businesses want to advertise on television is that television reaches more potential customers at the one time than any other medium.

For this reason, it is also the most expensive medium.

Every television timeslot each day has a rating based on the number of 'people meters' and there is great debate within the industry as to how accurate and unbiased the results are in view of the small sample used and the likelihood that anyone that cannot follow the instructions because of language difficulties will not be given one.

The difficulty from soccer's viewpoint is that it is just another business wanting to attract viewers' attention.

It must compete with time and money.

Because of the national nature of our sport, the advertising also needs to be national.

One thirty second commercial shown in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth at the medium rating time of 6.00pm costs an average of \$14,000 if not on or near the news when it would be much dearer.

Repeats

This has to be repeated many times before it can be of any use (known as reach and frequency in the trade).

What can be said over such a short period of time that can justify this type of expenditure and get results that will return even half of what is spent?

Soccer does not have, and never has had, the luxury of a large amount of money to be spent on advertising.

Soccer Australia has a major responsibility to retain and maintain four national teams at the highest possible level, to make these teams available to the public and to keep them sufficiently competitive to qualify for all World Cups and to do well at each event.

This is extremely expensive and absorbs most of the national body's income leaving very little for advertising.

Commercial Solution

The commercial television solution therefore would be for one of the networks to become the soccer broadcaster.

Then they would screen promotional advertisements during

other programmes at no cost to the sport.

We see this already with cricket, basketball, Australian rules and rugby league.

The exposure provided has been instrumental in propping up what otherwise would have quickly become forgotten quaint sports of historical significance only for three of the four sports mentioned.

ABC Axe

However, is this fair to SBS who have done so much for this sport and took it on when nobody else wanted it after it was axed by the ABC?

Should 'fair' even be considered as part of such an important issue?

Would a commercial network give the sport as much exposure and at such good times as SBS currently does?

Is soccer best placed on a network where it is

the network's flagship but the viewer numbers are low, or on a network with much higher viewer numbers but where it is only a very small fish with matches being shown around midnight as is currently happening to basketball?

Issues

These, then, are the issues that need to be considered when looking at only one aspect of soccer marketing.

What would you do?

Cable television has proved to be a little less difficult and that is certainly another question.

In the next issue of *Inside Soccer* I will discuss topics related to cable television and what has transpired.

In the meantime, I welcome any reader feedback from *Inside Soccer*, unquestionably Australia's top soccer publication.

In SHORT

GOING FOR GLORY

PERTH GLORY, who have opted out of the Johnnie Walker Cup, are busy finalising their squad for the opening Ecka Cup clash with UTS Olympic on October 13.

Coach Gary Marocchi has already signed up the Naven twins, Craig and Gareth, as well as Scott Miller, Vince Matassa, Vinko Buljubasic, Paul McVittie, Tom Marass, Paul Strudwick and Gary Lees.

Melbourne players Nick Lazarevski and Vedran Knezevic are also trying out for places in the Perth side.

Double Alex

COLLINGWOOD coach Zoran Matic is looking to some Ukrainian magic to lift his side's profile.

Signed to bolster his new club's core are Ukrainian defenders Alexander Pryhodko and Alexander Rabokin.

Pryhodko played with Niva Vinicci while Rabokin was with Odessa. Both players are 30 but Matic is looking to them to provide the experience which he will build his side around.

Also signed is Carlo Talladira, the former Adelaide City Grand Final player who was out of favour with John Perin at Hindmarsh last season.

Talladira left mid-season for Morwell but with his name being tipped to move to Wollongong Matic has moved to sign his former player.

SOCOg favourites

WITH the countdown on to secure places for soccer venues at the 2000 Sydney Olympics the race is starting to hot up.

Hot favourites to share billing with host city Sydney are Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne.

That is a boon for Victorian soccer fans with the almost certainty that the Victorian government will shortly unveil plans for a 50,000 seater capacity stadium.

The minimum size for an Olympic soccer venue is a 15,000 seater stadium which would likely result in either Olympic Park being totally revamped or a new stadium built at Docklands.

Alternative bids from Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong are likely to fail.

Chatham trio

WAITAKERE CITY are looking for a trio of Chatham Cup wins this weekend. The New Zealand national league side has four All Whites in its side to play Mount Wellington and are ranked as hot favourites.

"We've lost several players throughout the year for a variety of reasons," says coach Steve Cain.

"Because of that it has been difficult to retain cohesion but at the same time it is immensely satisfying to have got this far under those circumstances."

Cain took over as coach this season after four seasons under Keith Pritchett who has since taken over the national coach's job.

"As a team we have consciously set ourselves the goal of being successful and we are now in the final," he says.

"On a personal level, since this is my first year as coach, I would like that trophy under my belt."

Cash double turn

SOCCER AUSTRALIA is expected to confirm plans for the payment of chairman David Hill.

At last month's commissioners' meeting in Hobart both NSW president Peter Gray and his Victorian counterpart Henry Siwka strongly opposed the move to grant Hill a \$50,000 per annum honorarium.

But now it looks that the payment will be ratified by SocOz's board - despite Hill's earlier statements that he was coming into the post on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

Surprisingly Australia's soccer press has almost totally ignored the controversial about-turn in SocOz policy.

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Top stories
with no
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1899 Pymont Rangers
1900 West Wallsend
1901 West Wallsend
1902 Pymont Rovers
1903 Pymont
1904 Granville
1905 Balmain
1906 Glebe
1907 Broadmeadow RA
1908 Pymont
1909 Adamstown Rosebud
1910 HMS Powerful
1911 Balmain
1912 Balmain
1913 Leichhardt-Annandale
1914 Granville
1915 Balmain
1916-17 no competition
1918 Weston
1919 Balmain Fernleigh
1920 Balmain Fernleigh
1921 West Wallsend
1922 Granville
1923 West Wallsend
1924 West Wallsend
1925 Adamstown Rosebud
1926 West Wallsend
1927 Gladesville Ryde
1928 Thirroul

STATE CUP

1928 Aberdare
1929 Cessnock
1930 Adamstown Rosebud
1931 West Wallsend
1932 Weston
1933 St George
1934 Weston
1935 Metters
1936 Weston
1937 Wallsend
1938 Metters
1939 Weston
1940 Metters
1941 Leichhardt-Annandale
1942 Wallsend
1943 Merewether Athletic
1944 Merewether Athletic

STATE LEAGUE CUP (NSWSA)

1943 Leichhardt-Annandale
1944 Wallsend
1945 West Wallsend
1946 Canterbury-Bankstown
1947 Corrimal
1948 Leichhardt-Annandale
1949 Leichhardt-Annandale
1950 Wallsend
1951 Granville
1952 Wallsend
1953 Auburn
1954 Corrimal
1955 Leichhardt-Annandale
1956 Leichhardt-Annandale
1957 Wallsend
1958 Awaba

AMPOL CUP (NSWSF)

1957 Sydney City
1958 Canterbury-Marrickville
1959 Prague
1960 St George
1961 Prague
1962 Prague
1963 Yugal
1964 Prague
1965 Prague
1966 APIA
1967 St George
1968 Sydney City
1969 Prague
1970 APIA
1971 Western Suburbs
1972 St George
1973 Sydney City
1974 APIA
1975 St George
1976 Western Suburbs
1977 Bonnyrigg White Eagles
1978 Sutherland
1979 Sydney City
1980 Sydney Olympic
1981 Sutherland
1982 St George
1983 Marconi Fairfield
1984 St George
1985 Blacktown City
1986 Sydney United

STATE BANK CUP

1987 Sydney United

WARATAH CUP

1991 Blacktown City
1992 Bonnyrigg White Eagles
1993 Blacktown City
1994 Bankstown City
1995 Sydney United

THE N.S.W.S.F.

ROUND 1

Tolland Wolves 2
Lake Albert 1

ROUND 2

Tolland Wolves 0
Pagewood Botany 1

ROUND 3

Stanmore Hawks 3
Pagewood Botany 1

ROUND 4

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 2
Stanmore Hawks 3

Liverpool City 4
The Wanderers 1

Bathurst '75 4
Liverpool City 0

United Eagles 3
Hurstville 1

United Eagles 6
Earlwood Hermes 1

Canley Vale 0
Earlwood Hermes 1

Colo Colo 1
Sydney University 9

Alexandria Warriors 2
Sydney University 3

Fairfield Bulls 0
Sydney University 3

ROCKDALE CITY 5
Sydney University 1

Angels Liverpool 0
CSI Schofields 1

CSI Schofields 6
Trasandinos 3

Parramatta City 3
CSI Schofields 1

MACARTHUR RAMS 4
Parramatta City 0

Mascot Kings 2
Homenetmen 0

Mascot Kings 1
Parramatta City 4

Uni NSW 0
Gladesville RSL 3

Sydney District#
Pendle Hill Juniors

Southern Minotaurs 2
Sydney District 0

CANTERBURY 5
Southern Minotaurs 0

CENTRAL COAST 1
ST GEORGE 1

Fairfield Kings 3
Queens Park 1

Fairfield Kings 3
Arncliffe Scots 1

West Wanderers 3
Fairfield Kings 0

WARRINGAH DOLPHIN
West Wanderers 0

Nepean Districts 5
Maroubra 2

Greystanes 2
Nepean Districts 1

Penrith 3
Greystanes 0

BLACKTOWN CITY 4
Penrith 1

White City 4
Kosciusko 2

White City 1
Concord Juniors 4
Fraser Park 7
Granville Green Island 3

Concord Juniors 2
Fraser Park 1

Sydney Cosmos 2
Concord Juniors 0

Gladesville Homsby 2
Prairiewood 0

Sydney Cosmos 6
Gladesville Homsby 2

Moorebank 4
Marrickville 0

Auburn 4
Moorebank 0

Auburn 3
Gladesville United 2

Camden 2
Racing 0

Gladesville United 2
Camden 0

Gladesville United 1
Gladesville RSL 0

PARRAMATTA EAGLES
ILLAWARRA LIONS 0

Ryde City 3
Belmore Hercules 2

Ryde City 2
BONNYRIGG EAGLES 0

Hakoah 2
UWS Macarthur 1

Bossy WON#
Hakoah

Hakoah 0
AVA United 2

AVA United 3

NSW Police 2

Springwood 2
Lithgow Workmen 1

Hills United 4
Springwood 1

Hills United 5
AVA United 2

Sporting SSC 4
St Josephs 3

Glebe Wanderers 2
Sporting SSC 1

Glebe Wanderers 4
Prospect 0

Prospect 6
Balmain 0

Glebe Wanderers 2*
AC United 2

Blacktown Premiers 1
AC United 2

St Johns Park 6
Hawkesbury City 0

AC United 1
St Johns Park 0

Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3
Mt Pritchard 0

SUTHERLAND 5
Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2

Port Kembla ILL 2
Dulwich Hill 0

BANKSTOWN CITY 6
Port Kembla ILL 1

WARATAH CUP

ROUND 5

Bathurst '75 1
Stanmore Hawks

ROCKDALE CITY 5
MACARTHUR RAMS 2

CANTERBURY 1
CENTRAL COAST 0

WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 1*
BLACKTOWN CITY 1

Sydney Cosmos 9
Auburn 0

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 0*
Ryde City 0

ROUND 6

Bathurst '75 1
PARRAMATTA EAGLES 4

ROCKDALE CITY 1
UTS OLYMPIC 2

CANTERBURY 3
WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 2

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
Sydney Cosmos 0

SYDNEY UNITED 1
CANNBERRA COSMOS 0

Highfields Wolves NNSW 1*
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1

SUTHERLAND 4
Hills United 2

Weston Creek ACT 1
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 9

QUARTER FINALS

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2
UTS OLYMPIC 1



CANTERBURY 0
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

Highfields Wolves 0
SYDNEY UNITED 4

MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER

Round 6 marked the start of the 'competition proper' in this year's Waratah Cup – when the eight survivors from the earlier rounds were joined by the six NSL sides and the ACT's Federation Cup winning side.

Northern NSW was also represented when the winner of the Arctic Cup played off against their representative from the Super League for the right to enter Round 6.

Previously Super League clubs had competed from Round 4 while First Division sides and Illawarra's representative competed from Round 3.

In all, a total of 84 clubs have played in this year's Waratah Cup which has undoubtedly been the most successful since the Federation commenced the current series in 1991.

CHART LEGEND

won on forfeit

* won in a penalty shoot out after extra time

Hills United 2
Glebe Wanderers 1

ENTRY PLAY-OFF
Highfields Wolves 2
ADAMSTOWN ROSEBUD 1
after extra time

SUTHERLAND 0*
BANKSTOWN CITY 0

SUTHERLAND 1
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2

SEMI FINALS

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1
WOLLONGONG 0

SYDNEY UNITED 3
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 1

WARATAH CUP

WARATAH CUP FINAL

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Edensor Road

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Parramatta
Eagles
v
Sydney
United

early match
NSW SCHOOLBOYS
CHALLENGE
Kick Off 12.30PM

Pritchett names All Whites

NEW ZEALAND coach Keith Pritchett has named his squad for the Kiwis international tour of the Middle East next month. In June the All Whites toured China and this second overseas trip for the year is expected to enhance the overall playing strength of New Zealand's preparation for next year's World Cup qualification rounds.

"The Middle East trip will be offering the players tough opposition under trying conditions," said Pritchett. "We learned a lot in China. It showed us our strength. Our forward play was of good quality and we know we have to tighten up on defensive play. This trip will be an excellent development step in the right direction."

Pritchett has made a departure from tradition by not holding a training camp prior to the tour.

"When we toured China," says Pritchett, "we held a training camp in Auckland for five days and it rained constantly. We then went straight to China to face 30 degree heat and we weren't able to dial into the local conditions as quickly as we would have wanted. But we should get a half dozen sessions in Oman before we have to play our first game and by that time the team will be well used to the conditions."

Included in the team is high profile international striker Wynton Rufer who is based in Japan with J League side JEF United. Most capped player in the squad is midfielder Mike McGarry from Miramar Rangers with 70 full caps while captain Rodger Gray is sitting on 37. Also included are three Australian-based players - Chris Zoricich (Brisbane), Vaughn Coveney (South Melbourne) and former Waitakere City full back Gavin Wilkinson who has just signed a contract with Perth Glory. Zoricich is currently in England trialling with Watford.



Vaughn Coveney: South Melbourne's Kiwi

The games against Oman and Qatar will take Gray's total to nearly 40 while at the other end of the scale is 20-year-old rookie team member Nik Viljoen, is currently playing with Fencibles. Viljoen has only recently returned to New Zealand after a three year term with English League club, Rotherham United.

"We have a combination of youth and international experience," added Pritchett. "Although the tour won't be an easy one I am looking forward to some very close games."

The squad is: Simon Elliott, Chris Jackson, Sturt Jacobs, Mike McGarry (Miramar Rangers), Grant Schofield, Mark Elrick, Rodger Gray, Darren McClellan (Waitakere City), Jason New, Andy Rennie (Napier City Rovers), Jason Batty (North Shore United), Danny Hay (Central United), Graham Marshall (Wellington United), Nik Viljoen (Fencibles), Wynton Rufer (JEF United), Gavin Wilkinson (Perth Glory), Chris Zoricich (Brisbane Strikers) and Vaughn Coveney (South Melbourne).

BIG STORIES - THE BIGGEST NAMES, Inside Soccer

John White's LIFE'S A BALL

Ram



proudly brought to you by

FOOTBALL really is a great game, and like a lock of hair it has the ability to go through so many different and subtle changes, like the reflections of light.

Very poetic. But watching Galaxy TV last Friday night you could be forgiven for waxing lyrical.

Barcelona, at times, were just sheer poetry in motion.

Football has the ability to be like that, maybe that is why it really is such a great game.

And watching the telecast I couldn't help but thinking what the effect of Espanyol stretching their midfield would have been.

Just bring another player into the middle of the park, I thought, that will do the trick.

They didn't - and they paid the price.

Then I thought to some of the brilliant tactical ploys seen in our own NSL and I have to give the main prize to Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons.

Last season the former Everton star employed a simple tactic, yet one which had devastating effect.

If his team ever went two goals down then he switched sweeper John Koch into a libero role,

coming forward at will to support the front men.

Against Marconi in their third game of the season at Bossley Park it was simple, yet devastating.

Down 2-0, and really getting pumped mercilessly by a rampant Marconi, Koch's contribution by coming forward was breath taking.

It not only enabled Canberra to fight back to grab a draw but at the end of 90 minutes Stallions coach Manfred Schaefer was chewing his finger nails down to the bare knuckle.

In a short time Lyons has stamped his knowledge of the game on Australia, so much so that he is being whispered in certain circles as a possible for the next national coach.

That's another subject but it goes to show that tactical brilliance isn't the domain of just the Barcelonas - or even the Melbourne Knights and Marconis.

So we have another season upon us, one which has been foreshadowed by so much doom and gloom.

Should it be an unmitigated disaster then there are certain people who deserve to cop all of the blame.

But despite their



Manfred Schaefer - will he be chewing his fingernails at the season opener against Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium?

amateurish blunderings I firmly believe that we are on the final threshold of a brilliant new era.

Even the most incompetent and bumbling administrators (and we have more than enough of them) can't totally derail the soccer bandwagon - it is just

too strong a force.

But at the end of the day it only counts on the field, it is there we have to produce the goods.

Already in the pre-season I have seen enough new and exciting faces to suggest we have another good one coming up.

But it will be interesting to see what happens when Marconi and Canberra Cosmos match up for the first time.

It will be interesting to see if Marconi, surely the Barcelona of Australian football, has learned its lesson.

October 12th, Bruce Stadium - be there.

Northern League changes

THE NORTHERN NSW Soccer Federation has released details of clubs offered first division contracts over the next three year period.

"Whilst the improvement by many clubs since the introduction in 1992 of the contractual agreements with the First Division clubs has been gradual, the overall results have been rewarding and beneficial to the game," said the president of the NNSWSF.

"Improvements have been in the areas of administration, finance, facilities, coaching and playing strength, and junior development.

"It is unfortunate that some of the long standing clubs over the last five years have been unable to sustain the standards being set."

The new line-up is;
Bel-Swans (Belmont Swansea)
Broadmeadow Magic
Cessnock City Hornets
Edgeworth Deloraine Eagles
Hamilton Warriors
Highfields Wolves (Azzurri)
Maitland Magpies
Toronto-Awaba Stags
Wallsend Red Devils
Weston Workers Bears

Ousted clubs are Pasminco Roosters and West Wallsend Workers Bluebells with their places being taken by Toronto-Awaba Stags and Bel-Swans.

West Wallsend are six times winners of the NSW Gardiner / State Cup and are one of the oldest club in Australia, formed in 1892.

ACT Dilemma

THE 32nd ACTSF Grand Final last weekend marked what local officials hope is a comeback to the good old days of yesterday.

"With the expansion of the Premier League this season we have seen a sharp increase in attendances," said an ACTSF official.

"It is pleasing and rewarding that the hard work of the ACTSF and member clubs to take the game to the community is paying off."

This season Queanbeyan City, Monaro (formerly Inter Monaro) and University of Canberra were admitted to an enlarged top flight.

The increase in attendances were almost totally due to the inclusion of the two Queanbeyan clubs.

Monaro, which finished in bottom place, now faces relegation unless there is a change in policy.

GULLIT'S WAY

AS A player, Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit gave the impression that he was a free spirit, whose skill and vision had not been impeded by any regimental, authoritative coach determined to curb the Dutchman's flair for the 'greater good' of the team.

On hearing his name, many will still conjure up the image of him in the orange shirt of Holland or the red and black stripes of A.C. Milan, weaving and jinking his way past hapless defender and dispatching that match winning ball.

In the opinion of many people Gullit has often been put in the same basket as that other footballing great, unspoiled by modern coaching methods and production line footballing techniques, George Best.

Image maybe one thing, but as the current crop of Chelsea players will tell you, reality another.

Discipline is a word not previously associated with the dreadlocked Dutchman, but since taking over the managerial reins at Stamford Bridge, Gullit has surprised everyone with his no-nonsense approach to training and team etiquette.

Gone is previous manager Glen Hoddle's 'alternative training' methods, replaced by a two sessions a day training programme, which followed an intense pre-season

Ruud discipline at Stamford Bridge

schedule.

Said Gullit: "The players will have two sessions every day during the season except when there is a midweek clash.

"It is something I am used to from Italy, and it is very important to be as fit as you can possibly be. When you get to that level you feel more confident in your ability and everything is possible.

"I was certainly comfortable at Chelsea with the methods Glenn Hoddle employed, but the people he had are no longer here and I will be trying just to use my own methods at the club.

"I'm not saying there

are big changes but what I will put in place comes from the experience I have had from many top coaches and specialists during my career."

One of the first decisions he made which stamped his new found authority on the club was to ban his players from carrying mobile phones on match days.

And while there were a few eyes turned skywards when the players were first told of Gullit's edict, the

Chelsea squad have come to accept that it was more than just the new boss flexing his muscles.

Said central defender Steve Clarke: "As you'd expect with any new boss, there have been a few changes since Ruud took over.

"And yes, the mobile phones have gone.

"We're not allowed to bring them with us on match days or on to the team bus.

"I suppose it had to happen as the calls were getting out of hand and becoming a problem. Phones would be ringing in the middle of team meetings and all sorts.

"Ruud obviously felt

we were spending too much time arranging tickets and not enough time preparing for the games, so he banned them.

"Of course he's had to change his approach since becoming manager. He's had to distance himself a bit."

Gullit for his part does not see his new disciplinary code as being too restrictive, and still smiles when he recalls his early days as a player with A.C. Milan,

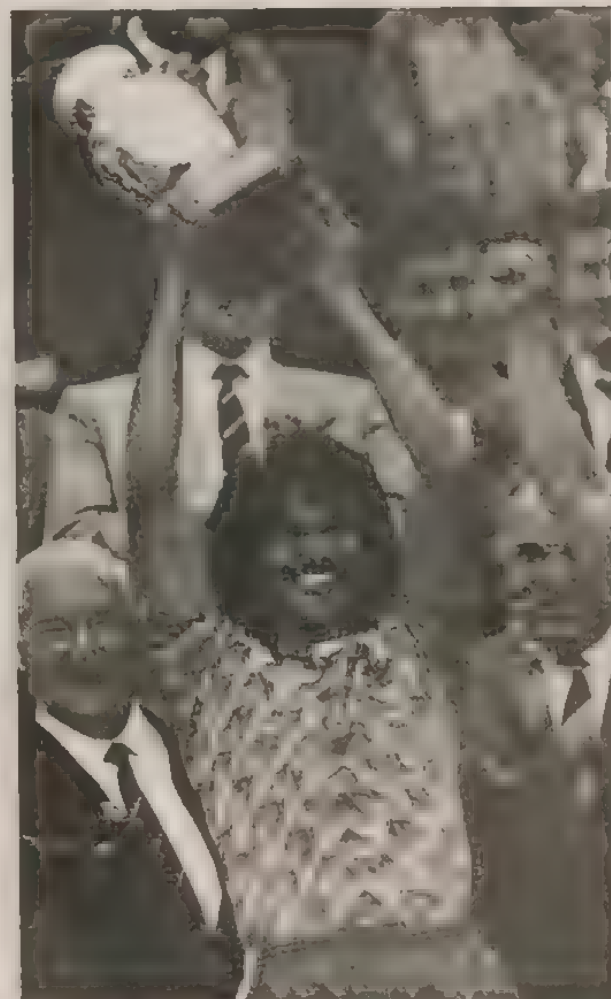
"After playing a

friendly against Lazio, Marco Van Basten and I decided to take a look at Rome and have a few drinks," he said.

"After two hours we were tracked down by one of the Milan coaches who said to us 'Oh no, how could you? You can't do this'.

"It's not my style to be a headmaster and if the players play well and want a beer or glass of wine, then they can have it," says the conciliatory sounding Chelsea manager.

"But," he reaffirmed, "you must know your own limits, and most importantly you must know you are also with the team."



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ARSENAL COACHLESS UNTIL JANUARY?

ARSENAL are anxiously awaiting word from Japan as to when new coach Arsene Wenger will be released by his Japanese club Grampus Eight to take up his duties at Highbury.

Grampus Eight are negotiating with Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz to take over from Wenger.

If Queiroz accepts the Japanese club's offer then Wenger will join Arsenal at the end of the month as planned.

However, Queiroz is enjoying his time as coach of US Major League club New York-New Jersey, and may decide to stay in the United States.

If this happens Wenger could be held to his contract with Grampus Eight, which would keep him in Japan until January.

Should this happen there is speculation that Arsenal would reconsider their decision to appoint Wenger, and there is already a feeling among some at Highbury that caretaker coach Stewart Houston should be appointed on a long term basis.

Although keen to come to London Wenger admits the matter is out of his hands:

"I don't know what is happening with Queiroz because the club is dealing directly with him.

"I still have not reached an agreement with Grampus Eight about leaving.

Old firm in European crash

BOTH Glasgow Rangers and Glasgow Celtic found out last week that while they may rule the roost in Scotland, when it comes to Europe they will have to think again.

Only a miracle will see Glasgow Celtic go through to the next round of the UEFA Cup after crashing to a 2-0 loss at Parkhead against German Bundesliga side SV Hamburg.

Celtic, who were cock-a-hoop going into this tie as a result of a 5-0 trouncing of Hibernian just a few days earlier, were brought back down to earth after only three minutes when Karsten Baron headed past Gordon Marshall from close range.

Apart from a Jorge Cadete effort which was ruled offside in the 27th minute Celtic offered little threat to the Hamburg goal, and

the tie was effectively killed off in the 71st minute when Hamburg substitute Markus Schupp scored a second for the German club, despite the Parkhead players pleas for an offside decision.

Celtic manager Tommy Burns was philosophical after the home defeat, admitting that his side were just a little short of European level.

"Our expectations were high after the way we played against Hibs on Saturday," Burns admitted, "so naturally I am very disappointed."

"But, we didn't give ourselves a chance because we lost such a stupid goal at the start."

Meanwhile city rivals Rangers were having their own horror night when they were trounced 3-0 by unfashionable Swiss club, Grasshopper Zurich in the European Champions League.

And had it not been

for the heroics of Scotland goalkeeper Andy Goram, then the result could have been utter humiliation for Rangers.

Swiss international Kubilay Turkylmaz was the forward who did most damage, scoring a goal in each half.

Rangers defender Gordon Petric was booked for a foul on Turkylmaz and as result he will miss Rangers next match against Auxerre at Ibrox.

The Scottish champions must now plan to win all their games at home in coming European matches, but on the evidence of the Grasshoppers game, just like their city neighbours, they too can get ready to concentrate on their Scottish League challenge.

Scotland have a woeful record in recent

European competitions at club level, and the only glimmer of hope from last week's ties

was Aberdeen's 3-1 win over Welsh part timers Barry in the UEFA Cup.

Inside Soccer's
EuroWorld is
compiled by
Fred Legget

SPOT THE BALL



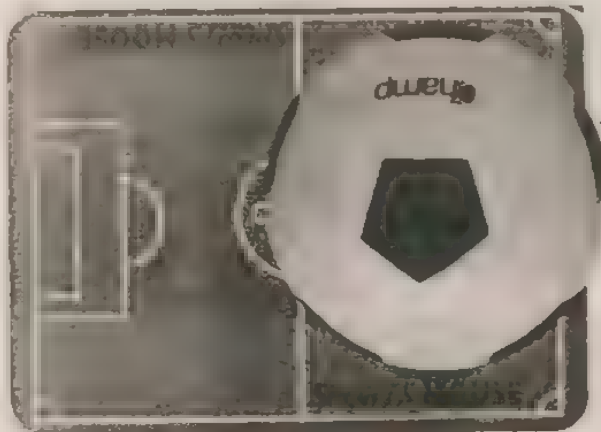
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McLean's United

TOMMY McLean has resigned as manager of Raith Rovers after only seven days in charge to succeed the sacked Billy Kirkwood as manager of Dundee United.

McLean's brother Jim is chairman at the Tannadice club, and the men nicknamed the Brothers Grimm have a major job ahead of them to keep United in the Premier League.

Chairman Jim denied that nepotism had anything to do with the decision to bring his younger brother to the Dundee club.

"It's utter nonsense to suggest he's coming here because he's my brother," said Brother Grimm senior.

"Tommy will be given a period of time to prove himself, just like any other manager.

"Billy Kirkwood was a good servant to the club, but the game has changed.

"Clubs can't live off transfer fees any more and managers don't get the same time as they did in the past."

Tommy McLean was sorry leaving Raith Rovers in the lurch but felt he couldn't pass up the opportunity to join United who he considers to be a bigger club than the Starks Park outfit.

"I would have liked things to have worked out differently, and for this job to have come up before I shook hands on the Raith job, but it didn't happen like that," he admitted.

"When the chance came to join United I had to do what was best for my football career and my family.

"I took this job because I am excited about the potential at Tannadice."

McLean had accepted a three year deal with Raith Rovers but did not sign a contract.



Chris Waddle: the former Tottenham, Marseille and Sheffield Wednesday has now joined the band of English ex-pats in Scotland, singing last week for Falkirk

LIVERPOOL'S MARKED MAN

INTERVIEWED recently in the *London Times*, Liverpool star Steve McManaman said he's a marked man, and it doesn't bother him one little bit!

Said the Liverpool superstar: "It can be a bit strange, having people pestering me all over the pitch, definitely frustrating, but it is a fact of life now.

"I have been singled out because other teams seem to think that if they can stop me, they can stop Liverpool. It's a compliment isn't it?"

"I am at the stage where I am regarded as one of the main threats, and I have to deal with man-to-man marking.

"It's a question of attitude and temperament.

"You have to regard it as a direct contest with your marker and try and take him to areas to where he might be vulnerable.

"I remember the first time it happened a couple of years ago against Queens Park Rangers, when Rufus Brevett shadowed me everywhere.

"I swear he was in the bath afterwards!

"Then there's the story that Paul Ince was sold by Manchester United because I created a couple of goals when he was marking me.

"Alex Ferguson is supposed to have went ballistic at him in the dressing room, but I reckon that was a plot by Incey - a big mate by the way - considering just how well he has done out of it.

"It doesn't bother me, although I was a bit nervous when Vinnie Jones followed me against Wimbledon last season - I made sure I didn't stand behind him! I am not being arrogant, but it shows I have arrived.



"During the European championship I was singled out as England's danger man, which was strange.

"To have all these stars you are a bit in awe of saying good things about you is a difficult concept.

"Even Pele said I was England's best player and I got a bit of stick over that from my mates."

Mabbutt goes under the knife

TOTTENHAM Hotspur captain Gary Mabbutt has recently undergone a major operation in an attempt to save his career.

London surgeons operated on the 35-year-old Spurs player for three and a half hours to try and repair the left leg he broke in the first game of the season against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park.

Spurs physio Tony Lenegham said: "Gary has had some pins inserted into his leg.

"It was a helluva long operation but we are all keeping our fingers crossed and hoping it will speed up his recovery progress."

EVERTON BID FOR HUGHES

EVERTON manager Joe Royle is believed to have renewed his interest in Chelsea striker Mark Hughes.

Royle is reported to have approached Chelsea with an offer of £3 million for the former Manchester United star and Welsh internationalist.

Everton tabled a £2 million bid last season when it became public knowledge that Hughes' family were having difficulty in adjusting to life in London but Chelsea turned their offer down.

Sparky, as Hughes is known, is very popular at Stamford Bridge and reported to be on an excellent contract.

Loyal Reds

TWO OF Manchester United's star players have pledged their loyalty to the Old Trafford outfit.

International goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel has turned down the chance to become player-coach next season of Danish Super League side FC Hvidovre who had approached him about the possibility of returning to his native Denmark.

Schmeichel felt that the offer had come too early in his career and said: "It's flattering to be linked with one of the top clubs in Denmark, but I want to continue playing for United as long as possible."

Another player declaring his loyalty in a more tangible way is Gary Pallister who has signed a new three year contract which should keep him at Old Trafford until the end of his playing career.

United chairman Martin Edwards said: "We've opened discussions with Gary and are putting a three year deal to him.

"The timing is right for us to agree a new deal with him and several younger players.

"Gary is playing very well for us this season and he's forced his way back into the England set up.

"He has shown everybody he's back to his best form."

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CAPITAL CLUBS CAN'T CUT IT

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Fred Legget looks at the failure of Hearts and Hibs to compete in modern day Scottish Premier league football

WHILE only forty miles away Glasgow is abuzz with talk of whether their own Rangers or Celtic will be crowned champions of Scotland come the end of the season, the

inhabitants of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city can only look on and dream.

While Edinburgh's two clubs, Hibernian and Heart of Midlothian may once

have been able to match it with the best teams in the world, these days it is unusual if one or the other is not at least flirting with the thought of relegation at some stage each season.

Successes for these under-achievers of Scottish football are few and far between and although Hibs at least recorded a League Cup victory as recently as 1991, their last league championship was earned in 1951 and to their extreme embarrassment the last time a Hibs player got hold of the Scottish Cup by lawful means was back in 1902.

Hearts, for their part, are unable to crow about their city rivals lack of footballing success, and are

on Saturday afternoons.

Wherever it is, it certainly isn't to Tynecastle or Easter Road who last year recorded average home gates of just over 12,000 and 10,000 respectively.

Lack of finances is one of the reasons touted for their lack lustre performance in recent years, and Hearts, whose chairman Chris Robinson is of fairly modest means compared to his footballing millionaire peers like David

regarded by many of the Hibs faithful as a dull and colourless man whose tactics reflect his personality, and many feel that it is time that Scotland's longest serving manager should be shown the door. That Miller is still there after 11 years is largely due to the relationship he enjoys with chairman Dougie Cromb, but now many feel that it is time for Cromb to go too.

Cromb who was appointed chairman by Hibs owner, Kwik-Fit boss and multi

"the community" and asserts that he has very little interest in football.

If Hibs and Hearts were purely businesses unaffected by all the emotional baggage that is attached to any football club the logical answer would be for the two sides to a m a l g a m a t e, consolidate their resources, and mount a serious challenge to the Old Firm.

This nearly happened in 1990, when cash-starved Hibs were subject to a take over bid from then Hearts

millionaire Tom Murray of Rangers or Fergus McCann of Celtic, certainly does not have his troubles to seek.

Hearts are rumoured to be £5 million in debt and climbing, partly as a result of their ground renovation programme. Across the city at Easter Road, Hibs are in the depths of despair and already one of their fanzines is calling for the head of manager Alex Miller after a poor start to the season.

Scotland's assistant manager has long been

continually taunted by Hibs fans that they have not won a major trophy for 34 years, when they won the League Cup.

An appearance in the the Scottish Cup final last season ended in disaster when Rangers hammered them 5-1 at Hampden in a defeat that even the most ardent Hearts fan would admit, could have been worse.

Edinburgh has a population of just over half a million people, although nobody knows where they go to

chairman Wallace Mercer. Near riots in the east end of Edinburgh, and several death threats later, Mercer withdrew his bid.

Both sets of supporters are adamant that they would rather see their teams play in the lower divisions than lose their identity and merge. Sadly, unless a couple of white knights with millions in their saddlebags happen along, they may get to see their wish turn into reality.

WRITERS

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South Melbourne 1 Gippsland Falcons 2

ROUND 1 - second leg

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Melbourne Knights 2 Canberra Cosmos 1
Sydney United 0 UTS Olympic 1
Marconi 3 Wollongong Wolves 1
Gippsland Falcons 0 South Melbourne 3

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Canterbury Wollongong Wolves

SEMI FINALS

Marconi 1 Sydney United 3
Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 0

DIVISION 1

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

Belmore Hercules 2 Ryde City 1 a.e.t.
Nikas 53, 105 Lindley 44

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL

Bathurst 75 0 Auburn United 0*

* Auburn own in a penalty shoot out

DIVISION 2

GRAND FINAL

Greystanes 1 Alexandria Warriors 0

DIVISION 3

GRAND FINAL

Moorebank Sports 2 Glebe Wanderers 1
a.e.t.

DIVISION 4

GRAND FINAL

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GRAND FINAL

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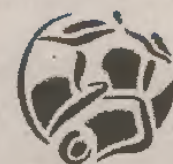
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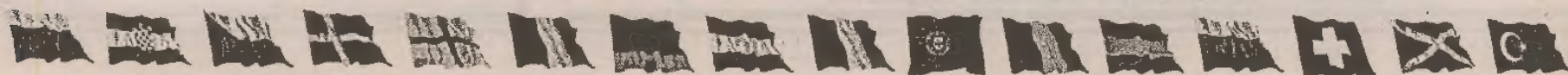
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